

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL.

FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 1864.

EXCHANGE OF CURRENCY.—We are requested to say, that the Bank of Camden will receive the old issues of Treasury Notes, and have them converted into new currency, sending the old to Charleston or Columbia for that purpose, and bringing back the parcels by Express, at the risk and expense of the parties interested, without further charge.

We must ask the indulgence of our readers for sundry errors of omission and commission to be found on our first and fourth pages. Our force is barely sufficient for the work of the office, and when any reduction of it takes place, it becomes a difficult matter to get our paper out at all. Owing to sickness among our compositors, we have been laboring under this difficulty for three weeks, and, but for the courtesy of Mr. HESSMAN, of the *Confederate*, would have been unable to publish more than a half-sheet. We hope this state of things will not last much longer, but, if some change does not take place in the weather, we fear the balance of the compositors, and the editor to boot, will be compelled to knock under. In that case, advertisers and others having business with the office, will please go to the devil, who, we are happy to say, is still in good condition, has no idea of knocking under, and will be happy to wait on our friends.

THE NEW TAX ACT.—On the 13th inst., the report of the Committee of Conference, on the amendment to the Tax Act, was presented to and passed by both houses of Congress.

Among the provisions of the bill, as passed, are the following: Land purchased and occupied by refugees to be assessed at the market value of \$100. Property assets of corporation associations to be taxed the same as the property assets of individuals; the tax to be paid by the company, provided no bank shall pay tax upon deposits. The stocks of corporation associations and all property within the enemy's lines are exempted from taxation. Five per cent. of the tax on the amount of specie, bills of exchange, &c., to be paid with specie or its equivalent in Treasury notes, an additional tax of thirty per cent. is to be levied upon the amount of profit on the sale of articles mentioned in the first two paragraphs of the fourth section of the tax act, from February 18th to July 1st. The old issue five dollar notes are to be taxed a hundred per cent. after the 1st of January next.

RETALIATION.

The Charleston *Mercury*, of the 14th inst., gives a list of fifty Yankee officers including five Brigadier Generals, who have arrived in that city, and are to be quartered—so the *Mercury* is informed—in that portion of the city most exposed to the enemy's fire. We earnestly hope that the *Mercury* has been misinformed, and that the record of the bombardment of Charleston will not be marred by so *desecrable* an act. History has recorded a few instances in which prisoners have been used by their captors, as a shield against the weapons of their enemies—and recorded only to condemn as cowardly and brutal.

We are not moved to the expression of this by any mawkish sentiment of pity for the proposed victims, still less by any consideration for public sentiment in Europe or elsewhere. We desire only that the Confederacy should preserve its self-respect. The justice of our cause, and the dignity of our people alike require that we should abstain from the perpetration of wanton cruelty; and that this would be wisdom, cruelty, not only posterior but our own deliberate judgment would decide. The argument, that such an act would be justified by the practice of the Yankees, is worth nothing, unless we are prepared to accept the Yankee standard of merit of our own, and, by setting them up as models for imitation, virtually admit our own inferiority. "Nobis ollige" is a maxim which might be properly applied here.

Retaliation is the报复 upon an enemy the wrong he has committed, not as a vengeance, nor even as a punishment, but merely as a preventive and it is on this ground alone that it is justified either by law or morals. We have always and earnestly advocated retaliation, and we firmly believe that if it had been promptly resorted to by the President, our people would have been spared many horrors. But the retaliation, to be effective, should have been prompt and stern, and want of nerve, or mistaken policy—it matters little, now, which it was—threw away a golden opportunity. Retaliation, rendered difficult by the failure to check the atrocities of Butler and McNeil, was made impossible by the deplorable weakness of Mr. DAVIS in uttering threats which he afterwards failed to execute. "It is not," says Beccaria, "the severity, but the certainty of punishment that deters from the commission of crime." Nothing that the Confederate authorities could now say or do, could convince the Yankees that a McNEIL or a BUTLER would be certainly punished if caught, or that the shooting of Confederate prisoners at Camp Chase would be inevitably followed by the hanging of Yankee prisoners at Richmond. Retaliation therefore is impossible, and we may as well reconcile ourselves to circumstances. Let us abstain from acts which, if they formed part of a system, would be justifiable, but isolated, and under existing circumstances, would be mere wanton cruelty, and console ourselves with the reflection that, if we have been forced to fight with a ruffian, we have used the rapier of the gentleman, and not the knife of the butcher.

Butler's Medical Director puts his loss in the great fight of Monday at five thousand, exclusive of Heckman's brigade, which is reported as nearly all missing.

NEWS SUMMARY.

FROM THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI.

MOBILE, June 9.—We have advices from Camden, Arkansas, dated May 27, stating that on the 24th ultimo Marmaduke engaged the enemy's fleet near Gaines' Landing. Captain Jacobs boarded and captured the Yankee transport Lebanon. Pratt's battery did excellent service, seriously crippling one gunboat. The whole Yankee fleet was badly repulsed and driven down the river.

Prior is reported at Camden, and Taylor below Alexandria. Steele occupies Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

*CLINTON, LA., June 13.—The remnant of Banks' army is on the west side of the river, near Port Hudson. There is constant skirmishing between them and our forces in their rear.

Pointe Coupee Parish, La., by order of the Yankee commander, has been desolated—the houses, crops and everything burned. The people have to beg provisions from the enemy, or starve. The Yankees are demoralized, scattering in large numbers and selling their horses and equipments for whatever they can get. 3,000 troops have come up from New Orleans to reinforce the enemy, who are constantly dreading an attack.

Major General Canby is in command of all the troops in the Department of the Gulf and West of the Mississippi river, except those of Missouri. General Banks has been appointed Military Governor of Louisiana, with his headquarters at New Orleans.

Mower is reported to have defeated Polignac on the 9th ult., on the Yellow Bayou. The Confederate loss was 800; Federal 1,000.—Shelby is moving on Southwest Missouri, with 2,400 men. Six thousand infantry have been ordered south from Missouri to reinforce Canby.

FROM MISSISSIPPI.

MERIDIAN, June 11.—Gen. Forrest has routed the Yankee columns near Baldwin, in North Mississippi. He made a forced march and threw Bell's, Crossan's and Lyon's regiments of Johnston's brigade, and Rice's and Morton's batteries, between the Yankee advance and Baldwin. He held them by severe and gallant fighting for five hours, when Buford struck them in the flank, driving them four miles.—Our loss was 150 killed and 440 wounded. The enemy's loss was 1,000 killed and 3,000 captured. The rest of the enemy's forces are scattered through the woods and are still being pursued, having traveled 58 miles in 31 hours. The enemy's army is, in fact, completely destroyed. "Fort Pillow" was the battle erg during the fight and hence the anxiety of the Yankees to escape. They are still being pursued and many more will be captured before reaching Memphis. We have captured about 3,000 prisoners, 250 wagons, with supplies and ordnance stores, 3,000 stand of small arms and about 20 pieces of splendid artillery. The fight was stubborn, the enemy in many instances standing their ground until knocked down with the butts of our muskets. We had about 3,000 in the fight; the enemy 1,500.

The destruction of property on the Yankee line of advance is unparalleled. The negroes are vindictive.

FROM GEN. JOHNSTON'S ARMY.

ATLANTA, June 10.—The enemy deployed in force yesterday on our front at Ackworth, and on our extreme right, east of the railroad towards Rossville. Some skirmishing took place during the afternoon.

Prisoners taken from Howard's Corps report that the bridge over the Etowah has been rebuilt by Sherman, and that trains are now running to Ackworth. Sherman voids every effort to bring on an engagement outside of his breastworks. Captured Yankees say that he has orders not to risk a general engagement.

BATTLEFIELD, NEAR MARIETTA, June 11.—John Morann, the notorious Yankee spy, was captured in Confederate uniform yesterday, in the vicinity of Rome.

From Kennesaw Mountain several hundred of the enemy's wagons can be seen parked near Big Shanty.

Prisoners report that Blair's 17th corps joined Sherman on the 9th inst.

ATLANTA, May 13.—The position of affairs in front has been unchanged during the past two days, with occasional slight skirmishing and firing on the working parties of the hostile armies.

Rumors of a raid on Atlanta, via Roswell, reached here on Saturday. Ample preparations were made to meet it; but up to this time there are no signs of the approach of an enemy.

Advices from the front represent that the recent rains have made the roads almost impassable, suspending all movements on the part of both armies. Neither has fired a gun for two days.

There are indications of a new flank movement on the part of the enemy. Our lines are strong and the troops have recovered from their recent fatigue.

ATLANTA, June 14.—The enemy opened slowly with artillery on our position yesterday afternoon, after the storm had passed over, and continued up to nightfall. This morning his artillery again opened and the firing still con-

tinned when the trains left Marietta. Both armies are gradually moving towards our right. As the rains have ceased, it is supposed that active operations will again commence.

Lieutenant General Polk was struck by a cannon shot to day, about 11 o'clock, and instantly killed. Generals Johnston, Hardee and Jackson were with him when he fell.

Gen. Loring succeeds to the command of Polk's corps.

FROM VIRGINIA.—FROM THE SOUTH SIDE.

RICHMOND, June 10.—The enemy, 5,000 strong, under Kantz, made a desperate attempt to capture Petersburg yesterday. They advanced in two columns, and, after several assaults upon our works, which were repulsed, succeeded in flanking about 200 militia, causing the latter to retreat, with the loss of 6 killed and 30 wounded, including some of the best citizens of Petersburg. The Yankees then advanced to the suburbs, but, at an opportune moment, Graham's battery opened upon them from Reservoir Hill. Our cavalry having charged them simultaneously, the enemy fled in great confusion.

The column which advanced on the Blandford Road, was repulsed by Sturdivant's battery, which arrived just in time. Our reinforcements pursued the Yankees several miles.

RICHMOND, June 11.—It is reported that Gilmore is sending troops to the South side of the Appomattox for another attack on Petersburg.

FROM GEN. LEE'S ARMY.

RICHMOND, June 8.—A despatch from Gen. Lee, dated last night says: "The enemy has been unusually quiet to day along the whole extent of his lines, and nothing important has occurred. Two divisions of his cavalry, under Sheridan, are reported to have crossed the Pamunkey yesterday, at Newcastle Ferry."

"R. E. Lee, General."

The advance of Sheridan appeared last night at Chesterfield Station, moving in the direction of A-Semarle.

RICHMOND, June 11.—Sheridan is reported moving in the direction of Columbia, Fluvanna county.

Accounts from the front represent Grant busy digging parallels. Some skirmishing took place yesterday and to day but it has amounted to nothing.

RICHMOND, June 12.—The report that Sheridan is moving towards the canal is not confirmed. On the contrary it is asserted that Hampton's cavalry attacked the raiders last evening near Louisa C. H., and captured a battery and a large number of prisoners. There is no change in the relative situation of the two armies, and save the occasional discharges of artillery and active sharpshooting on the part of the enemy nothing of interest is going on. Scouts report Grant to be tearing up the York River Railroad. Grant is very heavily fortified on our front; and his lines, in some places, are within fifty yards of our own.

RICHMOND, June 13.—Grant has again changed his base. He began moving to our right last night about dark, and early this morning began crossing at the Long Bridge over the Chickahominy, about twenty miles below Richmond. Our cavalry fought the enemy's advance, near Riddle's Shop, about fifteen miles below here, this morning, but, owing to the superior numbers of the enemy, were compelled to fall back.

The enemy was landing supplies and reinforcements just below Malvern Hill last night.

There has been no general engagement to day. About 150 prisoners, captured to day in the enemy's abandoned breastworks, have been brought in.

RICHMOND, June 14.—The following was received at the War Office this morning:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VA.

June 13—10 p.m.

To the Hon. Secretary of War: A despatch just received from Gen. Hampton, states that he defeated the enemy's cavalry near Trevilians with heavy loss, capturing 500 prisoners besides their wounded. The enemy retreated in confusion, apparently by the same route he came, leaving his dead and wounded on the field.

At daylight this morning it was discovered that Grant's army had left our front. Our skirmishers advanced two miles, failing to discover the enemy and were withdrawn.

A body of cavalry and some infantry, from Long Bridge, advanced to Riddle's Shop, and were driven back this evening nearly two miles, after sharp skirmishing.

FROM THE VALLEY.

WAYNESBORO, June 8.—Cook and Averill, with their Yankee cavalry, joined Hunter to day at Staunton. A portion of their forces are on the Greenville and Middlebrook Road.—Five hundred cavalry made a demonstration, at 3 p.m. to day, on Waynesboro', on the Greenville and Staunton Road, but were repulsed by Gen. Imboden. The enemy then retired to Staunton, burning the Fishersville Depot. Poore, with 4,000 Yankees, is moving down the Valley to reinforce Hunter. The enemy have no supplies, but subsist on the country.

LYNCHBURG, June 13.—Rumors of the movements of the enemy are plentiful, but nothing

definite is known outside official circles. It is reported that the force which occupied Lexington is moving in the direction of Buford, on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, 39 miles west of this place. The force in Amherst county is reported moving toward Buffalo Springs, 26 miles from here. This force is about 2,000 strong under General Stahl. They are all cavalry, and have to subsist off the country, having no supplies with them. They have two pieces of artillery only. Eight of them visited the Orange Railroad, burnt the depot at Arrington, tore up 200 yards of the track, and removed several head of cattle. Our guards destroyed the telegraph. The damage can be repaired in three or four hours. The people here are calm and resolute, and will defend their city at all hazards.

RICHMOND, June 13.—Telegraphic communication with Lynchburg is unbroken.

CONGRESSIONAL.

RICHMOND, June 8.—The Senate sustained the President's veto of the joint resolution for the exemption of editors and employees on magazines and periodicals from military service.

In the House a joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Taylor, his officers and men, was concurred in.

RICHMOND, June 10.—The Senate concurring in the House amendments to the bill to establish a bureau of supplies. The Senate again rejected the bill to authorize the army reporters of the Press Association to purchase rations and forage.

RICHMOND, June 13.—In secret session, on Friday night, Congress adopted a manifesto declaring nothing more ardently desired by us than peace.

The other proceedings are of no special importance except the action on the tax bill which is noticed elsewhere.

FOREIGN NEWS.—FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, and Andy Johnson, of Tennessee, were nominated, on the 8th instant, by the Republican Convention at Baltimore, for President and Vice President of the United States, during the term beginning on the 4th of March, 1865.

Fremont and Cochrane have been nominated by the Cleveland Radical Convention.

Gen. Morgan captured Mount Sterling, Kentucky, on the 8th inst. He destroyed the bridge and tore up the railroad track between Cynthiana and Paris, captured a passenger train, occupied Paris, and destroyed an important trestle work at that point. His force is estimated to be 2,500 strong.

The N. Y. Times, says the battle of the 3d instant was the most important of the war, and confesses that Grant was badly beaten.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer admits a loss of 4,000 at Cold Harbor on the 3d instant.

A Washington despatch, dated June 21, says that 30,000 wounded had been brought to the hospitals there.

The Herald claims a victory for Hunter at Staunton.

The Herald's Washington dispatch says that Secretary Chase has determined to put on the market from fifty to one hundred millions of six per cent. bonds, redeemable after 1874; and also that the French Government has informed Mr. Dayton that no rebel iron-clad will be permitted to leave France.

In N. Y., on the 10th inst., gold touched 99, and closed at 98 and a fraction. In consequence of the rise of gold resolutions have been introduced into the Yankee Congress prohibiting sales on time, and sales made elsewhere than at the place of business of the seller or the purchaser.

The New Orleans correspondent of the Herald says, that a fire in Alexandria, La., has destroyed buildings covering twenty-six squares.

The Mississippi River is blockaded by rebel batteries at Greenville, above Vicksburg.

Gold in Memphis is quoted at 225.

FROM EUROPE.

Pelissier, Duke of Malakoff, is dead. The news of Grant's battles in Virginia had caused a great sensation in England.

The steam rams built by Laird have been purchased by the English Government.

Liverpool cotton market steady.

Parliament had reassembled. Palmerston's health was restored. There are alarming accounts of the health of the Pope. Some credit was attached, on the London Stock Exchange, to the report of Grant's victories over Lee. The Confederate loan declined 3 per cent., and the news caused an unsettled feeling in commercial circles.

SHARP SHOOTERS.—A correspondent of the Augusta *Constitutionalist* says:

The casualties among our officers in the encounters with Grant have been unusually heavy; so much so as to suggest the existence of some peculiar operative cause. This may, perhaps, be found in the existence of those corps of sharp-shooters wherewith the Yankees are provided. We also have some battalions of sharp-shooters, but except in the fact of their being armed with finer rifles, and employed to a great extent as skirmishers, they do not differ materially from the troops of the line.